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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,767	06/07/2007	Matthias Langlotz	LANG3012/JEK	8753

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EXAMINER

LE, THIEN MINH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2887

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/583,767	Applicant(s) LANGLOTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner THIEN M. LE	Art Unit 2887	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 7-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/2006;10/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The priority document filed on 6/21/2006 has been entered. The information disclosure statements filed on 10/13/2006 and 6/21/2006 have been considered. The preliminary amendment filed on 6/21/2006 has been entered. Claims 1-13 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because they are "single means claims" (see MPEP .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 2, 5-6, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wildgoose et al. (Wildgoose et al. – 4,816,652; herein after referred to as “Wildgoose”).

Regarding claim 1, Wildgoose discloses a method for handling cassettes comprising the steps of: (i) determining the filling level of at least one cassette (the indicator levels); (ii) comparing the determined filling level (the currency level with the lower level, or the higher level) with one threshold value lower than the maximum capacity of the cassette; (iii) producing the signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value if the comparison yields an excess (the indicator 128); (iv) causing the replacement of at least one cassette (see Summary of the Invention; col. 1-2). As can be seen, Wildgoose discloses the claimed invention.

The following quotes that are relied upon are herein presented for further reviews (also see full descriptions of related figures):

Brief Summary Text - BSTX (4):

Art Unit: 2887

In an ATM, it is desirable that an indication be given when the number of currency notes remaining in a currency cassette has reached a predetermined low level, so that arrangements can be made for the cassette to be replenished, or replaced by a ready-loaded cassette, prior to the cassette becoming exhausted of currency notes. A currency cassette having a low level indication feature enables the time for which an ATM employing the cassette is out of operation to be kept to a minimum.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (10):

The manner of operation of the low level indication feature of the cassette 10 will now be described with additional reference to FIGS. 7-9. In operation of the cassette 10, the pusher plate 24 of the pusher assembly 26 pushes a stack of currency notes 126 against the note retaining member 22 positioned at the exit end of the cassette 10. As notes 126 are extracted one by one from the exit end of the cassette 10, the pusher assembly 26 will gradually move toward the retainer member 22. Depending on the positioning of the carrier member 68 in the pusher assembly 26, the cassette 10 will cause a low level indicator means 128 (FIG. 9) to be operated when the number of notes 126 remaining in the cassette 10 has been reduced to 250 notes (± 50 notes) or 75 notes (± 50 notes). As shown in FIG. 7, if the magnet carrier 68 is positioned in the pusher assembly 26 so that the magnet 70 is adjacent the pusher plate 24 (i.e. with the guide surfaces 80 of the corner members 76 engaging with the guide surface 98), then the low level indicator means 128 will be operated when the number of notes 126 remaining in the cassette 10 has been reduced to 250 notes. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 8, if the magnet carrier 68 is positioned in the pusher assembly 26 so that the magnet 70 is remote from the pusher plate 24 (i.e. with the guide surfaces 84 of the corner members 78 engaging with the guide surface 98), then the low level indicator means 128 will be operated when the number of notes 126 remaining in the cassette 10 has been reduced to 75 notes. It should be understood that the low level indicator means 128 will be operated in each case when the magnet 70 reaches those ends of the pole pieces 112 remote from the rear edge 48 of the note support member 16, since at this time the magnetic field emanating from the magnet 70 and passing through the pole pieces 112 is strong enough in the vicinity of the reed switch 124 to cause the switch 124 to be closed. Closure of the switch 124 causes an electronic control means 130 (FIG. 9) included in the ATM to bring about operation of the indicator means 128. Operation of the indicator means 128 will serve to provide a warning that the currency cassette 10 requires replenishment or replacement by a full cassette. It will be appreciated that the bank or other organization responsible for operating the ATM incorporating the cassette 10 can choose whether the low level warning is given at a relatively high level (250 notes) or a relatively low level (75 notes). For example, it may be desired that a warning be given at a relatively high level if the ATM incorporating the cassette 10 is installed at a location remote from a central establishment where personnel responsible for replenishing or replacing the cassette 10 are situated and where the indicator means 128 is installed.

Regarding claim 2, see the discussions regarding claim 1 wherein Wildgoose discloses variable threshold levels: the high level (250 notes) and the low level (75 notes).

Regarding claims 5-6, see the discussions regarding claim 1.

Regarding claims 12-13, Wildgoose discloses an ATM machine, and the cassette having the functions and features set forth in these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4 and 7-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art discloses various systems and methods for replenishing/recharging/replacing currency cassettes from one or more ATM machines. However, the prior art fails to disclose the specific features of the claimed invention: (i) the method of setting threshold based on time of day or weekday, or time in the manners as recited in claims 3-4; (ii) the threshold is set based on the total number of notes in all cassettes in the manner as recited in claim 7; (iii) the cassette having associated information in the manner as recited in claims 8-11.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THIEN M. LE whose telephone number is (571)272-2396. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve S. Paik can be reached on (571) 272-2404. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thien M. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2887